

A Morpho-Phonological Study of Verb Derivational Process in Kiwangona Dialect of Lamaholot

Maria Goreti Sura Gede ^{1,*}, Yosep B. Kroon ², Dewi I. N. Bili Bora ³

¹ Nusa Cendana University, Student, Kupang, Indonesia

² Nusa Cendana University, Lecturer, Kupang, Indonesia

³ Nusa Cendana University, Lecturer, Kupang, Indonesia

Email First Author: atibungalawan@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Article history	This research is about: A Morpho-phonological Study of Verb Derivational Process in Kiwangona Dialect of Lamaholot. The objectives of this research are to describe the derivational morphemes that attached to verbs in Kiwangona dialect of Lamaholot, to analyze and explain the meaning of the morphemes, and to find out the word class that produced after the morphemes that attached to verbs. This research using a qualitative method with a descriptive-analytic approach, the data was collected through elicitation with native speakers in Bungalan Village, Ile Boleng District, East Flores Regency. The findings show that the derivation processes are the prefixes {be-}, {ken-}, {pe-}, and the infix <en>, which change verbs into nouns or adjectives with meanings such as tool, actor, and result. In addition, there are initial phoneme changes such as /d/ → /n/, /g/ → /k/, /h/ → /n/, and /t/ → /n/, which produce nouns. The conclusions of this study enrich our understanding of derivational morpho-phonology, encourage the preservation of regional languages, and provide guidance for further research in the field of linguistics. A suggestion for future researchers is to analyze derivational processes in other word classes or other dialects of language
Received : Nov, 30 th 2025	
Revised : Dec, 19 th 2025	
Accepted : Dec, 23 rd 2025	
	
Keywords:	<i>Derivational Process, Kiwangona Dialect, Lamaholot Language, Verbs, Prefixes and Infix, Initial phoneme changes, Morpho-Phonological</i>

1. Introduction

The lamaholot language, spoken across several islands in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, exhibits diverse dialects, with Kiwangona dialect serving as a vital link between generations in villages like Bungalan. However, increasing population mobility and preference for Indonesian or foreign languages threaten its survival, leading to language identity crises. This research focuses on the morpho-phonological processes of verb derivation in Kiwangona dialect, encompassing morphological formations (e.g., affixation) and phonological changes.

2. Research Method

This chapter outlines the research methodology employed in this research, detailing the research method, data resources, research instrument, data collection techniques, and data

analysis procedure. The research utilized a qualitative research method with a descriptive-analytic approach to explore morpho-phonological phenomena in verb derivation.

Data were collected from 2 informants in Bungalawan Village, Ile Boleng Sub-district via elicitation (Interviews, Observation, Documentation), audio recording, and note-taking to capture natural speech, intonation, and phonological details. Instruments included a mobile phone for recording during elicitation sessions, facilitating documentation of verbal interactions and phonological aspects. The researcher used four procedure to analysis the data, such as: transcribing recordings, selecting relevant utterances, categorizing and analyzing patterns (morphological and phonological), and describing findings. This method ensured in-depth insights into the dialect's structure.

3. Research Findings and Discussion

Research Findings

The research identified derivational processes through prefixes ({be-}, {ken-}, {pe-}), infix (<en>), and initial phoneme changes (/d/ → /n/, /g/ → /k/, /h/ → /n/, /t/ → /n/). These processes transform verbs into nouns and adjectives, yielding meanings such as tools, actors, and results.

Derivational processes of prefix {be-}

The prefix {be-} attaches to verbs, particularly those beginning with alveolar consonants (/d/, /l/, /r/) or vowels, resulting in nouns or adjectives. This prefix is productive in forming instrumental, agentive, and resultative derivations, reflecting tools, actors, or outcomes of actions.

From a generative morphology perspective, {be-} exemplifies Aronoff's (2011) word formation rules, where affixation derives new lexemes by changing word class (verb to noun/adjective) and lexical meaning, as seen in Booij's (2005) model of morpheme combination. This aligns with Halle's (1973) framework, where such rules filter phonological and semantic outputs to ensure productivity.

Prior studies corroborate this: Witak et al. (2020) and Weking (2018) report {be-} as a key prefix in Tenawahang and Baipito dialects for similar deverbal nouns (e.g., agents and instruments), aligning with Kiwangona's findings. Marceline et al. (2025) also note {be-} in Tanah Boleng, reinforcing its cross-dialectal role. However, Kiwangona's examples (e.g., bedoru 'scrubbing tool') show broader semantic scope (tools, actors, results), differing

slightly from the more agent-focused derivations in Weking (2018), highlighting dialect-specific extensions of the generative rules.

1). Prefix {be-} + verb → noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {be-} results in a change in the word class from verb to noun. This process of changing a verb into a noun by adding the prefix {be-} can be explained with the following example:

- | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. <i>doru</i> (to rub) | → | {be-} + 'doru' | → | <i>bedoru</i> (thing/tool used for scrubbing). |
| b. <i>labē</i> (to chop) | → | {be-} + 'labē' | → | <i>belabē</i> (chop tobacco; a tool used for chopping tobacco) |
| c. <i>wayak</i> (to serve) | → | {be-} + 'wayak' | → | <i>bewayak</i> (servant) |
| d. <i>wika</i> (to split) | → | | | |
| | | {be-} + 'wika' | → | |
| | | | | <i>bewika</i> (split) |

The base words *doru* (to rub), *labē* (to chop), *wayak* (to serve), and *wika* (to split) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {be-}, changing their class to nouns and altering their meanings to *bedoru* (thing/tool used for scrubbing), *belabē* (chop tobacco; a tool used for chopping tobacco), *bewayak* (servant), and *bewika* (split). These nouns denote tools (e.g., scrubbing tool, chopping tool), actors (e.g., servant), or results (e.g., split). This process can be generalized as: prefix {be-} + verb → noun ({be-} + V → N).

2). Prefix {be-} + verb → adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {be-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- a. *lepet* (to fold) → {be-} + 'lepet' → *belepet* (fold/folded)

The base words *lepet* (folding) and *odo* (sleepy) are verbs that undergo derivation with addition of the prefix {be-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to

belepet (fold/folded; refers to the condition of folding) and beod'hō (sound sleepy; refers to the condition or feeling of wanting to sleep). These adjectives indicate states or conditions resulting from the base actions. This process can be generalized as: prefix {be-} + verb → adjective ({be-} + V → A).

Derivational processes of prefix {ken-}

The prefix {ken-} attaches to verbs beginning with the velar consonant /g/, resulting in the nouns or adjectives. This prefix is particularly associated with forming instrumental and resultative derivations, often involving morpho-phonological assimilation (e.g., /g/ to /k/).

The process fits generative morphology by illustrating Boijj's (2005) concept of derivation via affixation, where {ken-} combines with verbs to shift categories and meanings, filtered by Halle's (1973) rules for phonological assimilation. It extends Aronoff's (2011) ideas on lexeme formation, producing deverbal forms like instruments.

While not explicitly detailed in prior studies, {ken-} aligns with the {ke-} prefix in Weking (2018) and Marceline et al. (2025), where assimilation (e.g., /g/ → /k/) creates similar nouns in Baipito and Tanah Boleng dialects. Kiwangona's examples (e.g., kenaru 'grater') differ by emphasizing resultative meanings (e.g., inheritance), contrasting with the more instrumental focus in Marceline et al. (2025), thus revealing dialect-specific generative variations. The prefix {ken-} attaches to verbs beginning with the velar consonant /g/, resulting in the nouns or adjectives. This prefix is particularly associated with forming instrumental and resultative derivations, often involving morpho-phonological assimilation (e.g., /g/ to /k/).

The process fits generative morphology by illustrating Boijj's (2005) concept of derivation via affixation, where {ken-} combines with verbs to shift categories and meanings, filtered by Halle's (1973) rules for phonological assimilation. It extends Aronoff's (2011) ideas on lexeme formation, producing deverbal forms like instruments.

While not explicitly detailed in prior studies, {ken-} aligns with the {ke-} prefix in Weking (2018) and Marceline et al. (2025), where assimilation (e.g., /g/ → /k/) creates similar nouns in Baipito and Tanah Boleng dialects. Kiwangona's examples (e.g., kenaru 'grater') differ by emphasizing resultative meanings (e.g., inheritance), contrasting with the more instrumental focus in Marceline et al. (2025), thus revealing dialect-specific generative variations.

1). Derivational Process of the Prefix {ken-} + Verb → Noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {ken-} result in a change from the verb to noun. This process can be explained with the following examples:

a. garu (to grate) →	{ken-} + 'garu' →	kenaru (grater)
b. geka (chopping) →	{ken-} + 'geka' →	keneka (house made of chopped bamboo)
c. géré (climb up) →	{ken-} + 'géré' →	kenéré (ladder; stairs)
d. genā (inherit) →	{ken-} + 'genā' →	
		kenenā-nē (inheritance)

The base words garu (to grate), geke (chopping), géré (climb up), and genā (inherit) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {ken-}, changing their class to nouns and altering their meanings to kenaru (grater), keneka (house made of chopped bamboo), kenéré (ladder; stairs), and kenenā-nē (inheritance). These nouns denote tools (e.g., grater, ladder) or results (e.g., inheritance, chopped bamboo structure). This process can be generalized as: prefix {ken-} + verb → noun ({ken-} + V → N).

2). Derivational Process of the Prefix {ken-} + Verb → Adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {ken-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

a. geto (to break) →	{ken-} + 'geto' →	kenetū (broken)
-----------------------------	-------------------	-----------------

The base words gorē (to fry) and geto (to break) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {ken-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to kenorē-ne (fried food) and kenetū (broken). These adjectives indicate states or conditions resulting from the base actions, such as processed food or physical damage. This process can be generalized as: prefix {ken-} + verb → adjective ({ken-} + V → A).

Derivational processes of prefix {pe-}

The prefix {pe-} attaches to verbs beginning with alveolar consonants (/d/, /l/, /t/), resulting in deverbal nouns or adjectives. This prefix is primarily agentive, forming nouns denoting actors and adjectives describing actor traits or results.

In generative terms, {pe-} embodies Aronoff's (2011) derivation rules for category shifts, with Booij (2005) highlighting affix-driven semantic changes (e.g., to agentive nouns). Halle's (1973) filters ensure phonological compatibility.

This prefix is noted in Weking (2018) as {pe(n)-} for agentive derivations in Baipito and in Marcelline et al. (2025) as {pe-} in Tanah Boleng, aligning with Kiwangona's agent-focused outputs (e.g., *pelaā* 'thief'). However, Kiwangona extends to resultative adjectives (e.g., *pelatī* 'heated'), contrasting with the noun-centric findings in Witak et al. (2020), illustrating generative flexibility across dialects.

1). Derivational Process of the Prefix {pe-} + Verb → Noun

This derivational process involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {pe-} results in a change from verb to noun. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- a. *laā* (to steal) → {pe-} + 'laā' → *pelaā* (thief)
- b. *lile* (watch) → {pe-} + 'lile' → *pelile* (watcher; audience)

The base words *laā* (to steal), *du'ūn* (to sell), *leta* (requesting), and *lile* (watch) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {pe-}, changing their class to nouns and altering their meanings to *pelaā* (thief), *pedu'ūn-ne* (seller), *pelet'aā* (requester), and *pelile* (watcher; audience). These nouns denote actors performing the base actions. This process can be generalized as: prefix {pe-} + verb → noun ({pe-} + V → N).

2). Derivational Process of the Prefix {pe-} + Verb → Adjective

This derivation involves the transformation of a verb as the base form, where the prefix {pe-} results in a change from verb to adjective. This process can be explained with the following examples:

- a. *Tutu* (to speak) → {pe-} + 'tutu' → *petutu* (talkative)

The base words laté (to heat) and tutu (to speak) are verbs that undergo derivation with the addition of the prefix {pe-}, changing their class to adjectives and altering their meanings to pelatí (heated; hoted) and petutu (talkative). These adjectives indicate states resulting from actions or traits of actors. This process can be generalized as: prefix {pe-} + verb → adjective ({pe-}) + V → A.

Derivational processes of infix <en>

The infix <en> is inserted into the first syllable of verbs beginning with consonants like /s/ or /t/, resulting in deverbal nouns or adjectives. This process changes verbs to nouns (denoting tools or actors) or adjectives (denoting states).

This aligns with generative morphology's morpheme insertion rules (Halle, 1973; Aronoff, 2011), where <en> derives new forms by altering categories and meanings, as per Booij (2005).

All prior studies (Witak et al., 2020; Weking, 2018; Marcelline et al., 2025) document <en> for similar deverbal nouns/adjectives in Tenawahang, Baipito, and Tanah Boleng, matching Kiwangona's examples (e.g., tenané 'weaving tool'). Kiwangona's broader application (to actors and states) aligns closely, with no major contrasts, reinforcing <en> as a stable generative element.

The change caused by the addition of the infix <en> results in derivations from verbs to nouns or adjectives. This derivational process can be explained with the following examples for nouns:

- a. tané (weaving) → 't<en> + ané' → tenané (a tool used for weaving; weaving tool)
- b. sake (to stick something with a stick/pole) → 's<en> + ake' → senake (stick; pole)
- c. tekē (migrate) → 't<en> + ekē' → tenekē (migrant)

For adjective

The base words tané (weaving), sake (to stick something with a stick/pole), tekē (migrate), turu (sleep), and seru (to burn) are verbs that undergo derivation with the insertion of the infix <en>, changing their class to nouns (tenané: weaving tool; senake: stick/pole; tenekē: migrant) or adjectives (tenurū: asleep; sener'ū: burnt/burned) and altering their meanings to denote tools, actors, or resulting states. This process can be generalized as: verb + infix <en> → noun/adjective (V + <en> → N/A).

Other forms of derivation

Phoneme changes derive instrumental nouns without affixes, involving assimilation.

These phonological shifts extend Halle's (1973) generative filters for articulatory ease, aligning with Booij (2005) on derivation beyond affixation.

Marceline et al. (2025) report similar changes ($/d/ \rightarrow /n/$, $/g/ \rightarrow /k/$) in Tanah Boleng, aligning with Kiwangona's examples (e.g., $/d/ \rightarrow /n/$ in *nayuk* 'fan'). However, Kiwangona adds $/h/ \rightarrow /n/$ and $/t/ \rightarrow /n/$, contrasting with the narrower scope in prior studies, highlighting generative expansion for dialect-specific productivity.

Phoneme Change Process

a. dayuk (V) 'to fan'	$/d/ \rightarrow /n/$	\rightarrow	nayuk (N) 'a fan made from woven palm leaves that have been dried in the sun'
b. genato (V) 'to send; to entrust'	$/g/ \rightarrow /k/$	\rightarrow	kenato (N) 'delivery; consignment; shipment'
c. giri (V) 'combing'	$/g/ \rightarrow /k/$	\rightarrow	kiri (N) 'comb'
d. hamo (V) 'to sweep'	$/h/ \rightarrow /n/$	\rightarrow	namo (N) 'broom'
e. huro (V) 'scooping; spooning'	$/h/ \rightarrow /n/$	\rightarrow	nuro (N) 'spoon'
f. tobo (V) 'to sit'	$/t/ \rightarrow /n/$	\rightarrow	nobō (N) 'bench; chair'
g. tubak (V) 'planting'			
	$/t/ \rightarrow /n/$	\rightarrow	
			nubak (N) 'tool used for planting; planting tool'

These phoneme substitutions (e.g., $/d/ \rightarrow /n/$, $/g/ \rightarrow /k/$, $/h/ \rightarrow /n/$, $/t/ \rightarrow /n/$) involve consonant assimilation for articulatory ease, transforming verbs into nouns that denote tools

or results. For instance, dayuk (to fan) becomes nayuk (fan), and genato (to send) becomes kenato (shipment). This process can be generalized as: initial phoneme change in verb → noun (V with phoneme shift → N).

These processes highlight the dialect's morpho-phonological richness, with phonological adaptations ensuring derivational productivity and semantic shifts. The findings underscore the need for preservation to maintain linguistic heritage.

Discussion

Drawing on generative morphology as the theoretical framework (Chomsky, 1970; Halle, 1973; Aronoff, 1976, 2011; Booij, 2005; Bauer, 1988), this discussion interprets the findings as examples of word formation rules that derive new morphemes by altering lexical categories (e.g., from verb to noun or adjective) through affixation or phonological shifts. Derivation, as conceptualized by Aronoff (2011) and Booij (2005), involves combining morphemes to change meaning and class, often via affixes that create deverbal forms denoting instruments, agents, or states. Halle's (1973) morpheme-based approach, with its components of morpheme lists, word formation rules, and filters, underscores how these processes ensure morphological productivity while adapting to phonological constraints. The findings align with this framework by demonstrating rule-governed derivations that produce semantically shifted outputs, such as tools or results, while highlighting dialect-specific variations.

Comparisons with prior studies on Lamaholot dialects reveal both consistencies and divergences. Witak et al. (2020) on the Tenawahang dialect, Weking (2018) on the Baipito dialect, and Marceline et al. (2025) on the Tanah Boleng dialect all document similar derivational mechanisms, including prefixes like {be-} and the infix <en>, supporting a shared morphological foundation across Lamaholot varieties. However, the Kiwangona dialect introduces unique elements, such as the prefix {ken-} (potentially a variant of {ke-} with assimilation) and expanded phoneme changes, which extend the generative rules observed in these studies. These differences underscore dialectal diversity, enriching the understanding of Lamaholot's derivational complexity as a productive system for semantic and categorical shifts.

4. Conclusion

This research identifies key morpho-phonological derivational processes in Kiwangona dialect, which are characterized by two kinds of affixes, such as Prefix, and Infix. Three

types of Prefixes were found: {be-}, {ken-}, and {pe-}. And there is one type of Infix: <en>, producing nouns and adjectives with meanings like tools, actors, and results. Initial phoneme changes uniquely form instrumental nouns, where the basic verb class turns into a noun, such as (/d/ > /n/), (/g/ > /k/), (/h/ > /n/), and (/t/ > /n/).

These findings enrich linguistic understanding and support regional language preservation. Suggestions include deeper analysis of other word classes and dialects, encouraging further research to document endangered languages.

References

- Aronoff, Mark. Kristen Fudeman. 2011. What is Morphology: second edition. Edition history: Blackwell Publishing Ltd.
- Bagiya, 2018. Infleksi Dan Derivasi Dalam Bahasa Indonesia: Journal of Language Learning and Research
- Booij, Geert. 2005. The Grammar of Words: An Introduction to Linguistic Morphology. Oxford University Press.
- Bloomfield, Leonard. 1955. Language-London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.
- Darsita, Suparno. 2015. Morfologi Bahasa Indonesia. UIN Press. Accessed on 20th January 2025 from URL: <https://repository.uinjkt.ac.id/dspace/bitstream/123456789/45131/2/Morfologi%20Baha%20Indonesia.pdf>
- Denzim and Lincon. 2018. The Sage Handbook of Qualitative Research, 5th ed. Inc:Sage Publications. Accessed on 7th October 2024 from URL: <https://www.pdfdrive.com/the-sage-handbook-of-qualitative-research-e176394541.html>
- Fromkin, Victoria, Rodman, Robert and Hyamns, Nina. 2002. An Introduction to Language. 7th edition. Wardsworth: Thomson Boston, Massachusetts 02210USA. Accessed on 20th January 2025 from URL:<https://www.pdfdrive.com/victoria-fromkin-robert-rodman-e19436614.html>
- Geroda, Marceline Clarista Perada, Djuli Labu, I Nyoman Reteg. 2025. Derivation in the Lamaholot Language, Tanah Boleng Dialect, Bayunta'a Village. Jurnal Bahasa dan Sastra.
- Harman, Susan Emolyn. 1972. Descriptive English Grammar. New Jersey: Prentice Hall. <https://setkab.go.id/merdeka-belajar-untuk-revitalisasi-bahasa-daerah-yang-terancam/>
- Katamba, Francis. 1993. Modern Linguistic: Morphology. New York: St. Martin's Press.
- Keraf, Gorys. 1978. Morfologi Dialek Lamalera. Jakarta: Pusat Dokumentasi Bahasa-Bahasa Daerah
- Khasanah, H. U., Adis, E. D., Rukayah, D., Vesakha , M., & Permana, T. (2019). Derivational Morphology in English Language. JOSAR (Journal of Students Academic

- Research), 2(1), 48-60. URL: <https://ejournal.unisbablitar.ac.id/index.php/josar/article/view/798>
- Kridalaksana, Harimurti. 2001. Kamus Linguistik. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Kroon, Yosep. 2016. A Grammar of Solor – Lamaholot: A Language of Flores, Eastern Indonesia, Australia: The University of Adelaide
- Musakar, Abdullah. 2017. Process of Derivational Affixes of Lamaholot Language Mostly Used in East Solor Sub-District East Flores Regency. Agusan del Norte Philippines: Saint Michael College of Caraga Nasipit
- Nagaya, Naonori. 2011. Demonstrative prepositions in Lamaholot: a description and analysis of demonstratives in the Lewotobi dialect of Lamaholot.
- Nida, Eugene. 1970. Morphology: The Descriptive Analysis of Words. An Arbour: The University of Michigan Press.
- Nishiyama, Kunio; Kelen, Herman (2007). A Grammar of Lamaholot, East Indonesia: The Morphology and Syntax of the Lewoingu Dialect. Lincom Europe. ISBN 978-3-89586-714-9
- Peduli, Hendrikus A. O. 2022. The Constituent Structures of Noun Phrases in Kiwangone Dialect of Lamaholot Language. Kupang. UPT Perpustakaan Undana. URL: <http://skripsi.undana.ac.id/index.php?p=fstream&fid=5051&bid=3619&fname=88201-S1-1701020089-2022-SKRIPSI.pdf>
- Prabhat, & Pandey, M.M. (2015). Research Methodology: Tools and Techniques. Romania. Bridge Center.
- Ramlan, M. 1983. Morfologi, suatu tinjauan Deskriptif. Yogyakarta: CV Karyono
- Robins, R.H. 1992. Linguistik Umum; Sebuah Pengantar. Edisi Revisi, Yogyakarta : Kanisius.
- Taringan, Prof. Dr. Henry G. 1975. Pengajaran Morfologi (Edisi Revisi). Bandung: Angkasa. ISBN 978-979-665-605-2.
- Tryon, Darrel T. 1994. The Austronesian Language, Darrel T. Tryon (Ed.), Comparative Austronesian Dictionary; an Introduction to Austronesian Studies, Part 1: Fascicle 1. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Weking, Gonsalia P. D. 2024. An Analysis of a Derivational Affixes in Lewolaga Dialect of Lamaholot Language. Accessed on 20th January 2025. URL: <https://id.scribd.com/document/735739691/An-analysis-of-derivational-affixes-in-Lewolaga-dialect-of-Lamaholot-language>.
- Weking, Christina T. 2018. Derivation of Lamaholot Language of Baipito Dialect. Article. Accessed on 18th January 2025. URL: <https://download.garuda.kemdikbud.go.id/article.php?article=953212&val=14688&title=DERIVASI%20BAHASA%20LAMAHOLOT%20DIALEK%20BAIPITO%20DERIVATION%20OF%20LAMAHOLOT%20LANGUAGE%20OF%20BAIPITO%20DIALECT>

Witak Paulus, Pamantung Rina, and Djeinneimbang. 2020. Proses Derivasi Verba Bahasa Lamaholot Dialek Tenawahang. *Jurnal Kajian Linguistik*.

Suryabrata, Sumadi. 1984. Psikologi Pendidikan. Jakarta: Rajawali